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James De Vellis

Partner
Foley & Lardner

James De Vellis is an intellectual property lawyer focusing on patent portfolio development, related counseling, and post-grant practice. He is a partner in the firm's Electronics and Patent Office Trials Practices and chair of the Intellectual Property Department in Foley's Boston office. He is also a member of the CleanTech, Energy Transition, Automotive, and Innovative Technology Sector Teams, as well as the firm's Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Team.

James practices to advance clients' business objectives by developing sustainable patent portfolios and by acting as a check on competitors' patents that encroach beyond their appropriate boundaries. He is active in the areas of electric vehicle technology, batteries and battery system management, autonomous technology, medical devices, AgTech, clean water tech, power grid management, internet services, voice-based devices, and other innovative spaces.

Joan Popolo

Executive Director
ACTION Innovation Network

Joan serves as Executive Director at ACTION Innovation Network, a New England-based association of technology business incubators and other entrepreneur support organizations, focused on the sectors of cleantech, life science, robotics, bluetech, advanced materials, agtech, and aerospace. ACTION also hosts programs for international growth-stage companies as they explore US market entry opportunities in the Northeast.

Prior to her position with ACTION, Joan worked with the MIT Enterprise Forum of Cambridge's Ignite Clean Energy (ICE) Business Plan Competition and as Recruitment Chair for the Northeast Cleantech Open accelerator in supporting early-stage ventures.

Joan began her career as a research scientist in the Agricultural Biotechology Group at BioTechnica International in Cambridge, MA, working to increase disease resistance and nutritional qualities of crop plants.

Joan earned a B.S in Plant Science and Horticulture from Cornell University, and an M.S in Plant Science from Michigan State University.

Cliff Emmons

Founder & President
Accelerated Healthcare Innovations, LLC

Cliff is a visionary senior technology leader, entrepreneur, angel investor, and advisor with extensive experience in creating, building, and transforming organizations in the USA, India, and China at both Fortune 500 companies and startups. He is highly recognized and skilled in leveraging innovative technologies that generate sustained revenue growth. Cliff has over twenty years' experience in developing Medical Devices. He holds bachelor's degrees in mechanical and electrical engineering and a master's degree in management engineering (his "MBA for Geeks"). He is currently the CEO of IIOT-OXYS, Inc., Founder & President of Accelerated Healthcare Innovations, LLC, a mentor for Tampa Bay Wave Accelerator, serves on the Board of Directors for ACTION Innovation Network, and a Boston Harbor Angel member.

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Raman Venkatesh

Chief Sustainability Officer
Global Technology & Innovation
Medtronic

Dr. Raman Venkatesh is the Chief Sustainability Officer at Medtronic PLC (NYSE: MDT) responsible for the $31 billion, 95,000+ employee company's global sustainability portfolio and initiatives across various corporate functions and global businesses. Dr. Venkatesh's global experience includes various functional and business leadership roles in sustainability-oriented domains (particularly, water, air, clean energy and allied materials). His experience includes serving as a strategic advisor to VC/PE funds, and to CEOs and boards of directors. Previously, he was the Chief Operating Officer of SAE International (SAEI), a world leader in engineering standards serving the global mobility industries. He was responsible for strategy and global operations of SAEI as well as providing leadership to SAEI's international staff of 350 professionals. Prior to that, he was the CEO of a strategic business unit in Eureka Forbes Limited, a leading Asian consumer products company. He served on the boards of four companies, including as chairman of a technology joint venture. His career spans business management and technology leadership roles in various industries and geographies.

Dr. Venkatesh is the recipient of the prestigious American Hero award from American Chemical Society for an innovative technology implemented across the USA. He earned a B.E. (Hons.) in chemical engineering from BITS, Pilani (India) followed by M.S. and Ph.D. in chemical engineering from University of Pittsburgh (USA), where he won the Outstanding Graduate Student award. He also earned an Executive MBA degree from the Katz School of Business at University of Pittsburgh. He has advanced management diplomas on M&A and Strategic Alliances from Harvard Business School and the Wharton School (University of Pennsylvania). Dr. Venkatesh is a key inventor in over 10 patents and has authored more than 30 research articles with citations in peer-reviewed journals, international conferences, and reputed magazines. He was appointed by the Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh to the Swanson School of Engineering's Advisory Board.

Bill Peine

VP, Research and Technology,
Surgical Founder & Lead, Robotic Technology Development Center

Medtronic

Bill Peine leads the Robotic Technology Development Center at Medtronic, where he brings together experts from around the globe to accelerate innovation and enterprise-wide robotic strategies. He also serves as the Vice President of Research and Technology for the Surgical Operating Unit, fusing cutting-edge robotic-assisted technology and AI with groundbreaking surgical devices. Both roles enable him to deliver on his passion – leading innovation across multi-disciplinary teams to develop breakthrough technologies and products that deliver better outcomes and improve people's lives.

Since he joined Medtronic more than 10 years ago, Bill has driven the development of the Hugo™ Robotic Assisted Surgery system for soft-tissue, to deliver the benefits of minimally invasive surgery – fewer complications, shorter hospital stays, and a faster return to everyday life.

Additionally, he has been inducted into the Bakken Society, the highest technical honor at Medtronic. The Society recognizes technical

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employees for their contributions to the company and to the healthcare technology industry.

Peine's first foray into robotics was at Harvard University where he earned his Doctorate in Engineering Sciences. After completing his PhD, he worked at several start-up medical device companies, some fueled by his own doctoral research and one that was purchased by Medtronic. He was a tenure track professor of Mechanical Engineering at Purdue University – where he had also completed his BS in Electrical Engineering several years prior. While teaching at Purdue, he focused on researching novel surgical robotic technology and algorithms for image-guided surgery.

Throughout his career, he has authored over 100 patents and peer reviewed publications.

Rajit Kamal

VP & General Manager, Robotic Surgical Technologies, Medtronic

Rajit Kamal is vice president and general manager of Robotic Surgical Technologies within the Surgical business of Medtronic, the global healthcare technology leader.

In his current role, Rajit is responsible for end-to-end business of the Hugo™ robotic-assisted surgery (RAS) system, which today is in use in urologic, gynecologic and general surgery procedures in hospitals across every continent.†

Known for his people leadership skills, strategic thinking, commercial acumen, and collaborative style, Rajit is passionate about the positive impact healthcare technology has on people's lives and the critical role it plays in expanding access to care globally.

In his current role, role, Rajit leads a cross functional team to manage the global surgical Robotics business. The focus is scale up of the surgical robotics business outside US - Europe, LATAM & Asia, and working on market access and commercial readiness for the US launch and driving innovation/portfolio strategy and execution.

Before joining Medtronic, Rajit spent 15 years at Johnson & Johnson. Most recently, he was the worldwide president for J&J's $1B Sports Medicine and Shoulder Reconstruction business, providing end-to-end leadership from strategy development and portfolio management to commercial execution. He was a member of the DePuy Synthes Leadership Team (Management board of the ~$9B Orthopedic business of J&J).

Previously, as vice president Asia Pacific, Rajit lead J&J's $1.5B Orthopedic business (digital surgery, trauma, spine, joint reconstruction, sports medicine) in Asia Pacific with a focus on China, Japan, and Australia. Before that, Rajit was vice president and global franchise leader for $1.5B knee reconstruction business for J&J and was responsible for global sales, P&L, global strategy, portfolio, and new product development.

Earlier in his career, Rajit worked as a strategy consultant for the Boston Consulting Group & Innosight, a customer insights and innovation consulting firm. In his consulting career, Rajit specialized in healthcare and advised senior management of Fortune 500 companies on go-to-market strategies, cost benchmarking, product and business model innovation, and organizational restructuring. Rajit started his career with Procter & Gamble in manufacturing, supply chain, and demand planning.

He holds a B.S in chemical engineering with distinction from Indian Institute of Technology;

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and M.S. in chemical engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology; M.S. in technology management from Columbia University; and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

†The Hugo™ RAS system is not cleared or approved in the U.S. Cormac has published articles on sustainable design in medical and has spoken on sustainability at numerous national and international conferences.

Richard Meiklejohn

Program Manager,
Lahey Innovation Hub
Lahey Hospital & Medical Center

Richard Meiklejohn is an innovation specialist focused on building the systems that scale healthcare solutions. He is currently leading the design and development of the Lahey Innovation Hub, an initiative empowering clinical teams to improve patient care, operational performance, and workforce well-being through AI and human-centered design.
Previously, Richard led the M2D2 global accelerator at UMass Lowell. In partnership with major organizations like BARDA, Johnson & Johnson, and Boston Scientific, this program directly supported the fundraising success of early-stage ventures that went on to secure over $150M in financing.
A passionate advocate for entrepreneurship, Richard advises on ecosystem building and translating research into ventures. He can be heard promoting innovative startups as the co-host of the Medtech Impact Podcast

Nikolay Bugaev, MD

Associate Chief Medical Officer and Executive Director of Research, Department of Surgery
Tufts Medical Center

Dr. Nikolay Bugaev is the Associate Chief Medical Officer and Executive Director of Research in the Department of Surgery at Tufts Medical Center, and an Associate Professor of Surgery at Tufts University School of Medicine.
A trauma and acute-care surgeon by training, he completed his fellowship at the University of Miami's Ryder Trauma Center and has since focused on advancing evidence-based care in surgical critical care and trauma systems.
Dr. Bugaev has authored more than 80 peer-reviewed publications and served as a first or senior author on multiple national practice-management guidelines through the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma.
His research interests center on outcomes science, cost-effectiveness, and translational collaborations bridging clinical surgery, engineering, and immunology.
Currently, he leads research infrastructure and institutional initiatives at Tufts Medical Center

David Kleiman, MD

Chair, Robotics Committee,
Dept. of Surgery
Lahey Hospital and Medical Center

Dr. Kleiman is a staff surgeon in the Division of Colon & Rectal Surgery at Lahey Hospital and Medical Center in Burlington, MA. He completed his general surgery residency at NewYork Presbyterian Hospital - Weill Cornell Medical Center followed by a fellowship in colon & rectal surgery at NewYork Presbyterian Hospital and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Kleiman joined the staff of Lahey in 2017 and currently serves as the Chair of the Robotic Surgery Committee as well as the Program Director of the National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC). He is an active member of the American Society of Colon & Rectal

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Surgeons and currently serves as the Chair of the Young Surgeons Committee and the Co-Chair of the 2027 Annual Scientific Meeting Program Committee. Dr. Kleiman is passionate about surgical innovation and has led many hands-on skills courses across the USA and Europe teaching advanced laparoscopic, robotic, and transanal surgical techniques.

Jonathan Slutzman, MD

Medical Director for Environmental Sustainability
MGB Clinician Sustainability Group
Mass General Hospital

Dr. Slutzman is the director of the Center for the Environment and Health, medical director for environmental sustainability, and attending emergency physician at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). Prior to a career in medicine, Dr. Slutzman was a consulting environmental engineer, completing projects in environmental, health, and safety assessment. Combining engineering and medicine, Dr. Slutzman aims to improve the environmental sustainability of health care delivery while reducing the environmental costs of health care. He is a past chair of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine climate change and health interest group; founding member of the MGH executive sustainability committee; and founding member of the Mass General Brigham climate and sustainability leadership council. Dr. Slutzman also serves on the advisory committee of the Health Care Without Harm Physician Network.

Jeffrey Champagne

Senior Director, Business Development

Full Spectrum

Jeff Champagne, Greater Boston-based MedTech leader, brings 17 years of R&D innovation and 20 years of sales/marketing expertise across healthcare and high-growth ecosystems. He excels in established firms and startups, accelerating commercialization, securing funding, and scaling revenue.

Jeff advises executives on strategy, roadmaps, and market expansion to drive productivity and profitability. Currently Senior Director of Business Development at Full Spectrum Software (Westborough, MA), he connects clients to MedTech product development solutions.

He serves as Vice Chair at LifeSciencesNY (Syracuse, NY), Board Advisor at M2D2 (UMass Lowell), and guest lecturer at UMass Lowell's Manning School of Business; previously a 10-year member of Boston Harbor Angels' Life Science Screening Committee.

Jeff holds a BFA in Illustration & Visual Communication Design and an MBA in Marketing & Entrepreneurial Studies from the University of Hartford, CT.

Tom Ryden

Executive Director
MassRobotics

Thomas Ryden is the Executive Director of MassRobotics, a non-profit organization whose mission is to support the robotics community and help grow the next generation of robotics and connected device companies. MassRobotics runs

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the world's largest robotics focused co-working space.

Prior to joining MassRobotics, Mr. Ryden was the founder and CEO/COO of VGo Communications where he helped launch the VGo telepresence robot. Previously, Mr. Ryden was Director of Sales & Marketing for iRobot Corporation, overseeing the development and launch of some of iRobot's most successful products. Mr. Ryden serves on the Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Robotics Engineering Advisory Board and the Northeastern University ECE Industrial Advisory Board. He is an advisor to a number of robotics start-ups. Mr. Ryden has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Vermont and an MBA from Bentley University.

Becka DeSmidt, MPH

Program Director, CHARME
Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council

Becka DeSmidt, MPH is Program Director at the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council (SPLC), where she leads the Collaborative for Healthcare Action to Reduce MedTech Emissions (CHARME). In her role, Becka partners with forty health systems, MedTech companies, distributors, group purchasing organizations, and aligned NGOs in a two-year action collaborative aimed at innovating and scaling strategies to decarbonize the health sector value chain – from sustainable product development to circularity to renewable energy.

Before joining SPLC, Becka led health care sustainability at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), a global non-profit organization that leverages improvement science to solve health care challenges. Previously, as a consultant at Advisory Board and in the strategy department at Mass General Brigham, Becka focused on technology investments, market analysis, and population health management programs.

Parna Sarkar-Basu

Founder
Brand and Buzz Consulting

A tech evangelist and business strategist, Parna Sarkar-Basu is the founder of B&B Consulting and host of Beyond One Million podcast. She serves as a trusted ally to CEOs, entrepreneurs and transformational leaders across private and public companies worldwide. Parna provides candid, strategic guidance to executives helping them launch, expand and revitalize their companies for sustainable growth.

Recipient of multiple awards, including the Gold Stevie Award for Women in Business, Parna has helped propel dozens of tech companies into innovation leaders across highly competitive markets, including biotech, robotics, artificial intelligence (AI) and professional services.

Named a Massachusetts Mogul and 2025 Global Impact Maker (the only honoree from Massachusetts), Parna is recognized for advancing inclusive, future-ready organizations and championing women in tech and underrepresented entrepreneurs and students.

She serves on the boards of health-tech and robotics startups as well as nonprofit and academic institutions and applies her business and partnership expertise to advance their missions and cultivate the next generation of leaders.

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Nathalya Mamane

Founder and CEO
Anywhere Dx

Nathalya Mamane is the CEO & Co-founder of Anywhere Dx, a health-tech company building accessible, rapid diagnostics for everyday care. An operator with extensive experience in operations and strategy, she has led cross-functional teams at the intersection of biotech and product development. Anywhere Dx is developing a diagnostic platform that delivers lab-grade results at the point of need, reducing time to diagnosis and treatment. Under her leadership, the company targets high-impact infectious disease use cases and a scalable pipeline that brings clinical-quality testing into homes, clinics, and community settings. Driven by a mission to democratize diagnostics, Nathalya champions solutions that lower costs, increase access, and put actionable health information directly in people's hands.

Norman Wen

Founder
PHAB Products

PHAB Products was founded by Norman Wen, an engineer and life sciences executive, after more than a decade of seeing first-hand the amount of waste produced during research, product development, manufacturing, and end-use in the life sciences industry. Norman has made a career of translating academic innovation into commercial reality, developing and launching the first products of multiple life science startups.

PHAB Products is a product development company focused on commercializing and increasing the adoption of biodegradable, biobased polymers. By using this class of biopolymers that are now being produced at scale, PHAB is able to develop products that retain the advantages of single-use consumables, while reducing carbon emissions during production and reducing pollution due to waste.

Jayiesh Singh

Founder
Able Innovations

Jayiesh (Jay) Singh is an experienced entrepreneur who has spent over a decade on developing and commercializing mechatronic and robotic technologies. An engineer by training, he has a passion for high-tech and high-impact technologies that provide a societal benefit. While he initially started his career developing cutting edge technologies in the Solar industry, he launched Able Innovations after seeing family members working in healthcare struggle with injuries and strain due to repetitive and physical tasks. Today, Able Innovations is developing game-changing robotic technologies that have the potential to upend the status quo of patient transfers - the most labour intensive task in healthcare. Able's ALTA Platform® is a first-of-its kind technology that automates transfers within healthcare facilities. As the first fully automated patient transfer device, their technology promises to create efficiencies for healthcare operators while restoring sustainability to front-line staff and dignity to patients.

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Christopher Sculco

Business Development
SpadXTech

Chris Sculco is a business development professional at SpadXTech. With a background spanning finance, sales, product management, and project management. Chris combines cross-functional business experience with a passion for sustainability, climate-tech solutions, and science.

While completing a Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing training program at Olin College of Engineering, Chris met Dr. Lina Gonzalez, which led him to join SpadXTech, where he now helps advance the company's mission to create sustainable materials for a better future.

This event would not have been possible without the dedication and expertise of our stellar organizing committee. Thank you!